

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/582,253

Examiner

Naschica S Morrison

Applicant(s)

RICHARDSON, CHRISTOPHER

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/8/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 22-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 6/22/00 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Allen Hoover on September 24, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Claim 22 has been rewritten as follows:**

Claim 22 (currently amended). A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe, which has a longitudinal axis, to a surface comprising:

a first part fixable to the surface and having two spaced sides;

a second part slidably attachable to the first part so as to be slidable along the longitudinal axis of the pipe and so as to capture the pipe within the first and second parts, said second part adapted to capture the pipe so as to be slidable along the pipe; and

co-operating formations on said first and second parts, said co-operating formations both enabling the attachment of the first part to the second part to be selectively adjustable, [[whereby]] so that spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable, and limiting slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe when the pipe is captured by the second part,

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wherein said second part comprises a base connecting two spaced sides, and inwardly turned ends on said second part sides spaced from said base, wherein said base, sides, and inwardly turned ends of said second part slidably capture the pipe when disposed therein, and wherein said inwardly turned ends are located between said first part sides when said second part is attached to said first part.

**In claim 23:** On line 2, --a-- has been inserted before "another";

On line 3, --of-- has been inserted after "dimension".

**Claim 25 has been rewritten as follows:**

Claim 25 (currently amended). A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe, which has a longitudinal axis, to a surface comprising:

a first part fixable to the surface;

a second part slidably attachable to the first part so as to be slidable along the longitudinal axis of the pipe and so as to capture the pipe within the first and second parts, said second part adapted to capture the pipe so as to be slidable along the pipe; and

co-operating formations on said first and second parts, said co-operating formations both enabling the attachment of the first part to the second part to be selectively adjustable, [[whereby]] wherein spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable, and limiting slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in

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a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe when the pipe is captured by the second part,

wherein said second part comprises a base connecting two spaced sides, and inwardly turned ends on said sides spaced from said base, wherein said base, sides, and inwardly turned ends slidably capture the pipe when disposed therein, and

wherein said first part is U-shaped with a base supporting two spaced sides, said first part base being fixable to the surface and said co-operating formations enabling the attachment of the first part sides to said second part sides with said second part inwardly turned ends extending toward one another and located between said first part sides ~~and said second part sides.~~


The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: regarding claims 22 and 25, although the prior art of record discloses many of the limitations of the claims, it fails to further teach or suggest the connecting device comprising a second part slidably attachable to a first part to capture a pipe within the first and second parts wherein inwardly turned ends on the sides of the second part are located between the sides of the first part when the first and second parts are attached to one another.

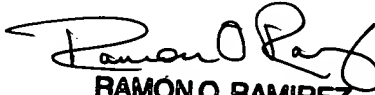
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Naschica S. Morrison, whose telephone number is (703) 305-0228. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached at 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this Application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at (703) 306-1113.

  
Naschica S. Morrison  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3632  
9/24/04

  
RAMÓN O. RAMÍREZ  
PRIMARY EXAMINER